

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02  
SS-15 /084 W

-----106310 142012Z /45 41

R 141749Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6738  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04612

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, GW  
SUBJECT: STRONG WINTER WEATHER CONTRIBUTES TO RISE  
IN FRG UNEMPLOYMENT DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY

REF: BONN 03918

SUMMARY: DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, THE GERMAN LABOR  
MARKET WAS NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED BY STRONG WINTER  
WEATHER. THE NUMBER OF NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEM-  
PLOYED INCREASED 0.9 PERCENT TO REACH A HIGH OF  
1,224,000. IN PREVIOUS YEARS, UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES  
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GENERALLY RECEDED AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. THE  
SITUATION ON THE FRG LABOR MARKET REMAINS SERIOUS AND  
SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EXPECT AN UNEMPLOYMENT  
FIGURE OF ONE MILLION TO PERSIST DURING THE NEXT  
DECADE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LATEST REVIEW OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS,

PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE IN  
NUERNBERG, FOLLOWS (ALL TOTALS IN THOUSANDS, ALL  
RATES IN PERCENTAGES):

| UNEMPLOYMENT    |         | COMPARISONS |         |            |         |             |      |
|-----------------|---------|-------------|---------|------------|---------|-------------|------|
|                 |         | FEBRUARY 78 |         | JANUARY 78 |         | FEBRUARY 77 |      |
| TOTAL           | RATE    | TOTAL       | RATE    | TOTAL      | RATE    | TOTAL       | RATE |
| SEAS. ADJ.      | 1.022   |             | 1.008   |            | 1.006   |             |      |
| TABLE CONTINUED |         |             |         |            |         |             |      |
| NON-SEAS.       | 1.224.1 | 5.4         | 1.213.5 | 5.4        | 1.213.7 | 5.3         |      |
| ADJ.            |         |             |         |            |         |             |      |
| MEN             | 687.7   | 4.9         | 657.1   | 4.7        | 676.3   | 4.7         |      |
| WOMEN           | 536.4   | 6.3         | 556.4   | 6.5        | 537.5   | 6.3         |      |
| REG. JOB        | 223.7   |             | 204.7   |            | 224.5   |             |      |
| OPENINGS        |         |             |         |            |         |             |      |
| PART TIME       | 251.6   |             | 251.2   |            | 281.2   |             |      |
| WORKERS         |         |             |         |            |         |             |      |
| FOREIGN         | 119.0   | 6.0         | 114.2   | 5.8        | 107.2   | 5.3         |      |
| WORKERS         |         |             |         |            |         |             |      |
| YOUTH           | 101.2   | 4.7         | 102.0   | 4.8        | 109.8   | 4.9         |      |
| (UNDER 20)      |         |             |         |            |         |             |      |

2. AT HIS MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 3, THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, JOSEF  
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STINGL, SAID THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE IS  
EXCLUSIVELY RESTRICTED TO MEN. THE FIGURE FOR THIS  
GROUP WENT UP 30.600 OR 4.7 PERCENT TO REACH 687.700.  
THE RATE FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN DECLINED 20.100 OR 3.6  
PERCENT TO A TOTAL OF 536.400. STINGL SAID THAT THIS  
DEVELOPMENT MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF "A SLIGHT  
IMPROVEMENT", BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE OVERALL SITUATION  
ON THE GERMAN LABOR MARKET REMAINS SERIOUS.

3. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY IN-  
CREASED 14.000 TO REACH 1.022.000 COMPARED TO  
1.008.000 IN JANUARY. THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE WAS  
ATTRIBUTED TO THE SUDDEN REVERSION TO WINTER WEATHER.  
GENERALLY, AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR THE FIGURES BEGIN  
TO SHOW A DOWNWARD TREND. THE NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED  
RATE REMAINED AT 5.4 PERCENT, IDENTICAL WITH JANUARY.

4. THE NUMBER OF JOB OPENINGS INCREASED MODESTLY BY  
19,000 OR 9.3 PERCENT TO REACH 223.700. THE SIZE OF  
THIS INCREASE IS ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO THE WINTER WEATHER,  
AS WELL AS TO INDUSTRY'S GENERALLY RESERVED AND CAUTIOUS  
HIRING POLICY.

5. THE NUMBER OF SHORT TIME WORKERS REMAINED RELATIVELY UNCHANGED AT 251.600 COMPARED TO MID-JANUARY WHEN THE FIGURE STOOD AT 251.100. AT THE SAME POINT IN 1977,

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USEEC & EMBASSY

THE FIGURE WAS 281,200. THE NUMBER OF SHORT TIME WORKERS IN INDIVIDUAL BRANCHES, IN GENERAL, CHANGED ONLY SLIGHTLY EXCEPT FOR METAL MANUFACTURING. IN THAT BRANCH, THE NUMBER (COMPARED TO JANUARY) DECLINED 11.000 TO 38.500.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG FOREIGN WORKERS ALSO INCREASED 4.800 OR 4.2 PERCENT TO REACH 119.000. THE TOTAL EXCEEDED THE FEBRUARY 1977 LEVEL BY 11.300 OR 10.5 PERCENT.

7. THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH UNDER 20 DECREASED  
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SLIGHTLY TO 101.200. COMPARED TO FEBRUARY 1977, THIS  
WAS A DECREASE OF 8.700 OR 7.9 PERCENT.

8. ON A REGIONAL BASIS, THE HIGHEST RATES OF  
INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT WERE REGISTERED IN RHINE-  
LAND-PALATINATE-SAARLAND (PLUS 4.9 PERCENT) AND HESSE  
(PLUS 2.5 PERCENT). UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASED IN SOUTHERN  
BAVARIA (MINUS 2.6 PERCENT), NORTH BAVARIA (MINUS  
0.9 PERCENT), AND IN WEST BERLIN (MINUS 300).

9. A DRAFT REPORT ON THE OLD AGE INSURANCE ADJUSTMENT,  
WHICH THE FEDERAL CABINET ACCEPTED MARCH 8 TOGETHER  
WITH THE OLD AGE INSURANCE ADJUSTMENT LAW, INDICATED  
THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE FRG  
AT THE ONE MILLION LEVEL FOR THE NEXT DECADE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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